From: N A I French CMG MVO

(344)
Tel p: 1-2

2 November 1979

Major G A F Tims WCM
Officer Commanding
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[illegible]
Karnatka

I acknowledged your letter of 27 October in a telegram of 31 October, ~~and I am following~~ this up with an amplification of my statement that I do not understand your reference to the second plaque (for Raja's Seat).

It was my understanding from our previous exchanges that because the plaque for Raja's Seat would be the specific responsibility of the Planters' Association and would be financed by them, I and my Office would not be directly involved. I assumed too that the mason in Bangalore would be instructed either by you, or Major Thengar, or by some other agent appointed by the Planters' Association.

Looking back at our records it seems to me possible that you did not receive my telegram of 16 October which I think put these points fairly explicitly. Just in case it went astray it reads:-

> "Please confirm soon that plaque for Raja's Seat has been commissioned from Bangalore mason. If affirmative some indication of completion date would be useful. Also please confirm that the funds from the Planters' Association are now available on demand for the plaque and construction of barrier gate. I assume that the mason's account for this work will be settled directly by the association or by you."

I must also confess to being a little dismayed by your disclosure that the Planters' Association had not yet produced funds amounting to Rs 3,500. Again it was my understanding that this money was to be used not only for

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the Raja's Seat plaque but also for the barrier gate at the "new" cemetery, and <u>possibly</u> to reimburse the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia and the High Commission's Endowment Fund with the costs already met by them for the first plaque.

I do hope this will help to clarify things and that it is well understood by all concerned that since neither BACSA nor the High Commission are directly involved in the Raja's Seat plaque the commissioning of it and all other arrangements must be directed by the Planters' Association.

As you may have heard from Major Ebenezer, while I was in Bangalore last week I saw the first plaque in its completed state and the pedestal, and that the mason had done an excellent job. I was of course delighted to learn that it <u>had now</u> reached Mercara safely and that you were arranging for its installation at the cemetery.

My wife and I were disappointed that the General was not able to get to Bangalore on 24 October as planned: we had looked forward to seeing him there.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the General for information. Meanwhile I very much hope that the Planters' Association will not delay in procuring the funds to enable the work on the Raja's Seat plaque etc to proceed promptly.

With renewed thanks for your unflagging and enthusiastic co-operation. My lady joins me in best wishes to you both.

N A T French

cc: General K M Cariappa CBE